REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 11-13, and 17-18 have been amended, and claims 4-5, 8, 14-16, and 19-25 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 26-37 have been added by the above amendment. Claims 20-25 have been canceled as being directed to non-elected inventions, without prejudice to prosecution in one or more divisional applications. Claims 4-5, 8, 14-16 and 19 have been canceled in view of the claim amendments made herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-13, 17-18, and 26-37 will be pending in the application.

Support for amended claims 1, 12, 13, and new claims 26-28 can be found, e.g., on page 3, lines 28-35 and page 9, lines 25-30, of the specification. Support for claims 2-7, 17-18, and newly added claims 36-37 can be found in the corresponding original claims and starting on page 7, line 27 through page 8, line 9 of the specification. Support for claims 10-11 and new claim 29 can be found, e.g., in original claims 10-11 and on page 7, lines 17-19 of the specification. Support for new claims 30-35 can be found, e.g., on page 7, lines 20-26 of the specification.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the outstanding Restriction Requirement in the above-referenced application, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I (claims 1-19, now claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-13, 17-18 and 26-37), drawn to methods of treating asthma using soluble fibronectin polypeptides, as presently amended. Applicants have limited claim 12, as originally filed, to be directed to soluble fibronectin polypeptides capable of binding to the $\alpha 4$ subunit of VLA-4, instead of any polypeptide capable of binding to the aforesaid subunit of VLA-4. The election is made without traverse. All of the amended and newly added claims read on the elected invention.

Applicant respectfully asks that all claims be examined.

A petition for an extension of time and check for the required fee are being filed concurrently herewith. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number 10274-003003.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 4, 5, 8, 15-16 and 19-25 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 11-13, and 17-18 have been amended as follows:

1. (First Time Amended) A method for the treatment of asthma comprising administering to a mammal suffering from asthma a composition comprising [an anti-VLA-4 antibody] a soluble fibronectin polypeptide.

2. (First Time Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the [Anti-VLA-4 antibody] composition is administered intravenously.

3. (First Time Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the [Anti-VLA-4 antibody] composition is administered in the form of an aerosol by inhalation.

6. (First Time Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide from 0.05 to 5.0 mg/kg of fibronectin polypeptide [antibody], based on the weight of the asthma sufferer.

7. (First Time Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the composition is administered to the mammal at a dosage so as to provide 0.5 to 2.0 mg/kg of fibronectin polypeptide [antibody], based on the weight of the asthma sufferer.

9. (First time amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the mammal prior to exposure to an allergen to which the asthma sufferer is hypersensitive.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

11. (First time amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to the mammal after exposure to an allergen to which said mammal is hypersensitive.

12. (First time amended) A method for the treatment of asthma comprising administering to a mammal suffering from allergic asthma [an antibody, a recombinant antibody, a chimeric antibody, fragments of such antibodies,] a soluble fibronectin polypeptide [or a small molecule] capable of binding to the α_4 subunit of VLA-4, [or combinations of any of the foregoing,] in an amount effective to provide inhibition of late phase response to an allergen to which the sufferer is hypersensitive or to provide decreased airway hypersensitivity in said mammal following allergen challenge.

13. (First time amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the [antibody,] soluble fibronectin polypeptide comprises an EILDV motif. [or molecule is selected from monoclonal antibody HPl/2; Fab, Fab', F(ab')2 or F(v) fragments of such antibody; soluble VCAM-l polypeptides; or small molecules that bind to the VCAM-1-binding domain of VLA-4.]

17. (First time amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide from 0.05 to 5.0 mg/kg of [antibody, antibody fragment,] polypeptide [or small molecule], based on the weight of the asthma sufferer.

18. (First time amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide 1:0-2.0 mg/kg of [antibody, antibody fragment,] polypeptide [or small molecule], based on the weight of the asthma sufferer.